

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01

INT-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /176 W

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R 021810Z AUG 74

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4966

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2691

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, RQ, SY

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN UN COMMITTEE OF 24: SYRIAN POSITION

REF: USUN 2378 (NOTAL)

1. UNGA SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF 24 EXPECTED TO TAKE UP PUERTO RICAN ISSUE IN LATE AUGUST OR FIRST WEEK SEPTEMBER. AS IN LAST TWO YEARS, THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE ENTHUSIASM IN COMMITTEE FOR PROLONGED AND DECISIVE DEBATE ON PUERTO RICO. HOWEVER, IF SIGNIFICANT MINORITY OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS PUSH FOR ANTI-US RESOLUTION, COMMITTEE ONCE AGAIN LIKELY TO BE UNABLE TO RESIST THESE PRESSURES.

2. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT LAST YEAR, SYRIA (ALONG WITH CHILE AND IRAQ) WAS PRINCIPAL SPONSOR AND LOBBIED ACTIVELY ON BEHALF OF CUBAN INSPIRED RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE WHICH SHARPLY CRITICIZED US-PUERTO RICAN RELATIONSHIP. WITH TRANSFORMATION OF CHILEAN POSITION, IRAQ WOULD BE ISOLATED AS ONLY OUTSPOKEN ADVOCATE OF CUBAN "LINE" ON PUERTO RICO AND POSSIBILITY OF AVOIDING HOSTILE RES WULD BE INCREASED IF SYRIA ALSO WERE TO MODIFY HER STAND. WE NOTE DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT THIS YEAR IN US-SYRIAN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

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WE SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER INSTRUCTING EMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO RAISE WITH FONMIN SYRIAN POSITION ON PUERTO RICO IN CONTEXT OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. SPECIFICALLY, WE RECOMMEND THAT EMDDSSY OUTLINE LEGAL RATIONALE BEHIND USG'S FIRM OPPOSITION TO COMMITTEE OF 24 INVOLVEMENT IN PUERTO RICA AND URGE SYRIAN RESTRAINT IN COMMITTEE. EMBASSY COULD DRAW ON AMB. SCHAUFLE'S JUNE 28 LETTER TO COMMITTEE (COPY BEING POUCHED TO DAMASCUS).

3. WE HAVE NOT RAISED PUERTO RICAN ISSUE WITH SYRIAN MISSION SO FAR THIS YEAR BECAUSE WE RELUCTANT TO TIP OFF CUBAN MISSION (WHICH WORKS CLOSELY WITH SYRIANS HERE) THAT WE ALREADY LOBBYING ON PUERTO RICAN ISSUE.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S AND EMBASSY'S COMMENTS.
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